

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 20 to 26.

The above amendment is responsive to points set forth in the Official Action.

A new set of claims is presented to more clearly point out the invention. Support is evident from the previous claims and specification, particularly in portions discussed below.

Claims 1 to 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Tsuei (U.S. 5,643,669).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to an ink-printable coating sheet comprising a film of polyolefinic polymer coated with a coating composition comprising a urethane polymer component and an acrylic polymer component, which composition further comprises a plurality of cross linkers, at least of which is an aziridine or carbodiimide. This is expressed in new main claim 20.

The rejection correctly states that aziridine crosslinking agents are taught in Tsuei, however, there is no disclosure in Tsuei of a plurality of crosslinking agents, in which plurality at least one of the crosslinkers is aziridine (or indeed carbodiimide).

Tsuei suggests to use a mixture of alkaline-stable crosslinkers in column 6, lines 6 to 15 of column 6. Although Tsuei discloses aziridine crosslinkers as being preferred, and discloses mixtures of crosslinkers, there is no specific disclosure in Tsuei of a mixed crosslinking system in which one of the crosslinkers is aziridine (or indeed carbodiimide).

The careful selection of particular crosslinkers, notably a plurality of such crosslinkers in which at least aziridine or carbodiimide is present, is not trivial and is expressed early on as a focal point of the Applicant's invention, which is to improve the resistance of the coat to certain types of degradation, while maintaining its desirable ink-printable properties. Thus, it will be seen at paragraph [0015] on page 1 of U.S. publication number U.S. 2004/0197572 A1 that:

The applicant has surprisingly found that addition of two or more cross-linkers to a coating composition improves coat resistance yet retains other desirable properties such as good printability.

Elsewhere in the specification, in particular paragraph [0027] on page 2 of the published U.S. application, it is pointed out that aziridine and carbodiimide are particularly preferred in this

connection. Also see [0028] and [0041] which mention various desirable combinations of crosslinkers.

Thus, it is not Applicant's invention to use an aziridine crosslinker per se, for example. This of course is taught by Tsuei. However, it is the Applicant's invention to combine aziridine (or carbodiimide) with a second crosslinker, with the subsequent result that coating resistance is improved but ink-printability is maintained.

There is of course no suggestion in Tsuei that the compositions taught therein are ink-printable. The purpose of the compositions (as taught in the first few lines of column 1 of Tsuei) is as a bonding system which, in many embodiments includes friction particles (see the drawings of Tsuei). Clearly, Tsuei is not concerned with ink-printability and is therefore an inappropriate starting point for the Applicants' invention which, in any event, teaches a mixture of crosslinkers which is simply not disclosed or suggested by Tsuei.

Please note that the expressed purpose of Tsuei compositions as bonding compositions is emphasized by the high coating weights taught at column 11, lines 14 to 16. These coating weights are well in excess of the normal coating weights used for ink-printable films.

In short, Tsuei does not disclose or suggest the features of new claim 20 or claims dependent thereon because it does not disclose ink-printable films, and it does not disclose films having a plurality of crosslinkers in which one of the crosslinkers is aziridine or carbodiimide.

Moreover, Tsuei is unrelated in its technical field to the films and compositions of the invention, being concerned with bonding materials rather than ink-printable labels and graphic art works.

For the foregoing reasons, it is considered that the Tsuei reference does not disclose or suggest the present claims.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

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MJ/kes
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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Respectfully submitted,

David BELL

By: Matthew M. Jacob

Matthew M. Jacob

Registration No. 25,154

Attorney for Applicant